

same tenure as the houses, and as long as the vine-stocks remain in the- ground, and the ground rent, which is 7s. a year for the *tanap*, a piece of ground 256 yards square, is paid, the tenant cannot be evicted. Where vineyards are sub-let for a year a fair rent is from 10s. to 12s. a *tanap*. If a tenant buys a property from an Agha the yearly taxation is 5s. a *tanap*; grass fields and orchards are held on the same tenure as vineyards, and at the same rent. With ploughed land the case is different. If the tenant provides the seed, etc., he gives the Agha a third of the produce, and if the Agha provides seed the tenant returns two-thirds. The tenant of ploughed land may be changed annually.

This paying the rent in kind is going on just now in every village, and the Aghas secure themselves against dishonesty by requiring that the grain shall be threshed on their floors. In addition, their servants watch night and day by turns, in an erection similar to the " lodge in a garden of cucumbers " or melons, an arbour of boughs perched at a height of seven or eight feet upon four poles. The landlord's *nasr* appears at intervals to take away his master's share of the grain. It is all delightfully primitive.

The arrangements sound equitable, the taxes are moderate, and in some respects the Christians are not more victimised by their landlords than are their Moham- medan neighbours. The people acknowledge readily that as regards oppression they are much better off than they were, and that in this respect the

presence of  
the American missionaries in Urmi has  
been of the  
greatest advantage to them, for these  
gentlemen never  
fail to represent any gross case of oppression  
*which can*  
*be thoroughly substantiated* to the Governor of  
Urmi, or  
in the last resort to the Governor of  
Azerbaijan. The  
oppressions exercised by the Aghas consist in  
taking extra